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General Assembly

Official Records

Fifty-first Session

48th plenary meeting
Thursday, 31 October 1996, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Razali Ismail . . . . . (Malaysia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 15 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: This afternoon the General Assembly will continue with the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1996.

As members will recall, when the 47th plenary meeting was adjourned earlier today there still remained one seat to be filled from among the Asian States.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, we shall proceed now to the fourth round of balloting, by secret ballot, for the remaining seat from among the Asian States.

This fourth round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Asian States which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers marked "B" will now be distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "B", for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Sri Lanka or Viet Nam, as well as if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Amirbekov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Brauwers (Belgium), Mr. Nor (Brunei Darussalam), Mr. Soulama (Burkina Faso), and Mr. Estévez (Guatemala) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.30 p.m. and resumed at 3.40 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	168
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	168
Abstentions:	1
Number of Members voting:	167
Required two-thirds majority:	112
Number of votes obtained:	
Sri Lanka	112
Viet Nam	55

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Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Sri Lanka was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997.

The President: I congratulate Sri Lanka on its election.

The following 18 States have thus been elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning 1 January 1997: Cape Verde, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, El Salvador, France, Gambia, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Zambia.

I wish to thank the tellers and the Secretariat for their assistance in this election.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 15 (b).

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.